

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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MARIO RICOZZI

Chairman

Memorandum

To: Anthony DaRos, First Selectman
CC: Board of Selectmen; Representative Town Meeting; Board of Finance; SWMC
From: Mario Ricozzi, Chairman
Date: June 3, 2010
Re: Recycling and Solid Waste Update for Branford

On April 22nd 2010, Branford thanked Peg Hall for her leadership and environmental programs developed during her 22 years of service to the Town of Branford. Peg has set the foundation in place for a solid recycling program for Branford Residents. Some of the students Peg first taught recycling to now have children of their own in the Branford schools. These students of today are ready to learn more and do more than their parents before them.

In order to continue advancements in environmental stewardship for our Town, the Solid Waste Management Commission is moving forward in several different areas. First and foremost we are maintaining operations and service while new plans and programs are put into place. Additionally, we are continuing with the systematic closure of the Town landfill. We are looking to the future of recycling and solid waste management for Branford. We are discussing with our friends and neighbors what they would like to see moving forward. We are also reviewing operations with Town officials to better understand how improvements being made in Recycling and Solid Waste may streamline and improve operations in other Town agencies. We appreciate all the positive comments we have received.

Maintaining Operations and Service – We have been contacting existing vendors to confirm that they will continue with existing contracts for the 2011 Fiscal Year. We anticipate bringing those contract extensions forward to the Board of Selectmen in June for their approval. In a few cases, the long term contracts have reached their full term. In these critical cases, we will be seeking a waiver of bids to continue an extension of the existing and previously bid contracts. This request is to allow energies to be focused on program improvements for the long term, especially with the vacancy of a department head.

Continue with Landfill Closure – During the past several years, the Branford Landfill has been slowly closed, one area at a time. We have been utilizing the landfill closure reserves for this important project. By doing so, we have maintained a pay as you go fiscal policy. The final cell still receiving

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limited wastes should be filled in the next year. During the near term, we will continue the normal operations. We will also be working on a final design and construction documents for bidding that will close the chapter on the Town Landfill.

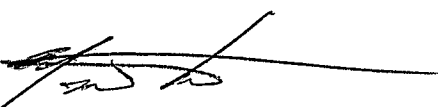
Future of Recycling and Solid Waste Management – We were advised that our long affiliation with the SCRRRA would soon be ending due to a change in their facilities. We began to review various alternatives. As a result, we issued a Request for Qualifications for the Management of Recyclables for Branford in December of 2009. Since then, the SWMC has been reviewing the various alternatives proposed for Branford Residents. The most favorable alternatives involve dramatic increases in the number of materials that can be recycled by residents. This increase of recycled materials would require a change in program for our residents. The changes may be as simple as Two Blue Boxes, one for plastics, metals and glass; a second for paper cardboard and newsprint. The alternative is to have separate Town issued containers for solid waste and recyclables. Both options have advantages and disadvantages. We will continue to evaluate these options and obtain proposals from the interested vendors. In July 2010, we will increase the number of “plastics” that can be recycled curbside. Other items may be added as conditions permit.

Obtaining Input from Friends and Neighbors – As we work through the process of evaluating alternatives, the SWMC members continue to discuss with friends and neighbors what services they would like provided. It is our goal to create a program that will be fiscally responsible and provide an increased benefit to the residents of Branford. As we move forward, more emphasis will be made to gain input from users. While no plan will be ideal to all the residents, we trust we will be able to improve on the current service.

We continue to have discussions with Town agencies to further understand how they interact with Recycling and Solid Waste and what improvements in service they see. Some of the suggestions that will be evaluated and possibly phased in include On-Line Renewal of RSW permits along with more user friendly Day Trip Ticket Sales opportunities.

For day to day service, the Solid Waste Department employees are being managed through the Director of Public Works. This facilitates maintenance of staffing levels as the two groups of employees are in the same union. Assistance is also being provided from the First Selectman's Office. The Solid Waste Management Commission is providing greater oversight and guidance for operations as well as coordination with outside agencies.

We are grateful to our own Solid Waste Department Employees for their extra efforts in providing quality service to the public. We also extend our thanks to the Office of the First Selectman and Department of Public Works for their cooperation and assistance.



Mario Ricozzi
Chairman